

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2884
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2001
IMPORT OF JUTE AND ITS PRODUCTS
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has now become the largest importer of raw jute and jute products in the world;
- (b) if so, the quantity and value of jute and its products imported from different countries during each of the last three years and estimated for the current year, product-wise and country-wise;
- (c) the reasons for import and its effect on domestic industry; and
- (d) the remedial steps taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V.DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

- (a) : As per the bi-annual report of FAO (Rome), India happened to be the largest importer of raw jute in 1999 (calendar year). However, India was not the largest importer of jute goods during this period as per the report.
- (b) : A statement regarding import of raw jute and jute products during the last three years is enclosed at Annex-A. Regarding Country-wise import of raw jute and jute products, the data is not readily available. However, most of the raw jute and jute goods imported into India come from Bangladesh. No estimates are available for import of raw jute and jute goods for 2001-2002.
- (c) & (d): Import of raw jute/jute goods is under Open General Licence (OGL). Import of raw jute is mainly of higher grade, which is not available in the country and is by and large used by the mills for manufacture of diversified jute products and export market. The raw jute prices have remained higher than Minimum Support Price (MSP) levels after November 2000 till now. Prices of jute goods also did not show any significant fall. Domestic jute Industry continues to get protection under Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

Annexure-A

Import of Raw Jute and Jute Products and their value by India

Qty: In Tons Value: Rs. In Crores

YEAR Raw Jute Value Jute Products Value Total Import Total Value

1998-99	9,061	8.15	1,215	1.94	10,276	10.09
1999-2000	140,837	143.80	21,178	36.88	162,015	180.68
2000-01	49,093	58.45	53,474	94.12	102,567	152.57